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HADWEN, WALTER ROBERT

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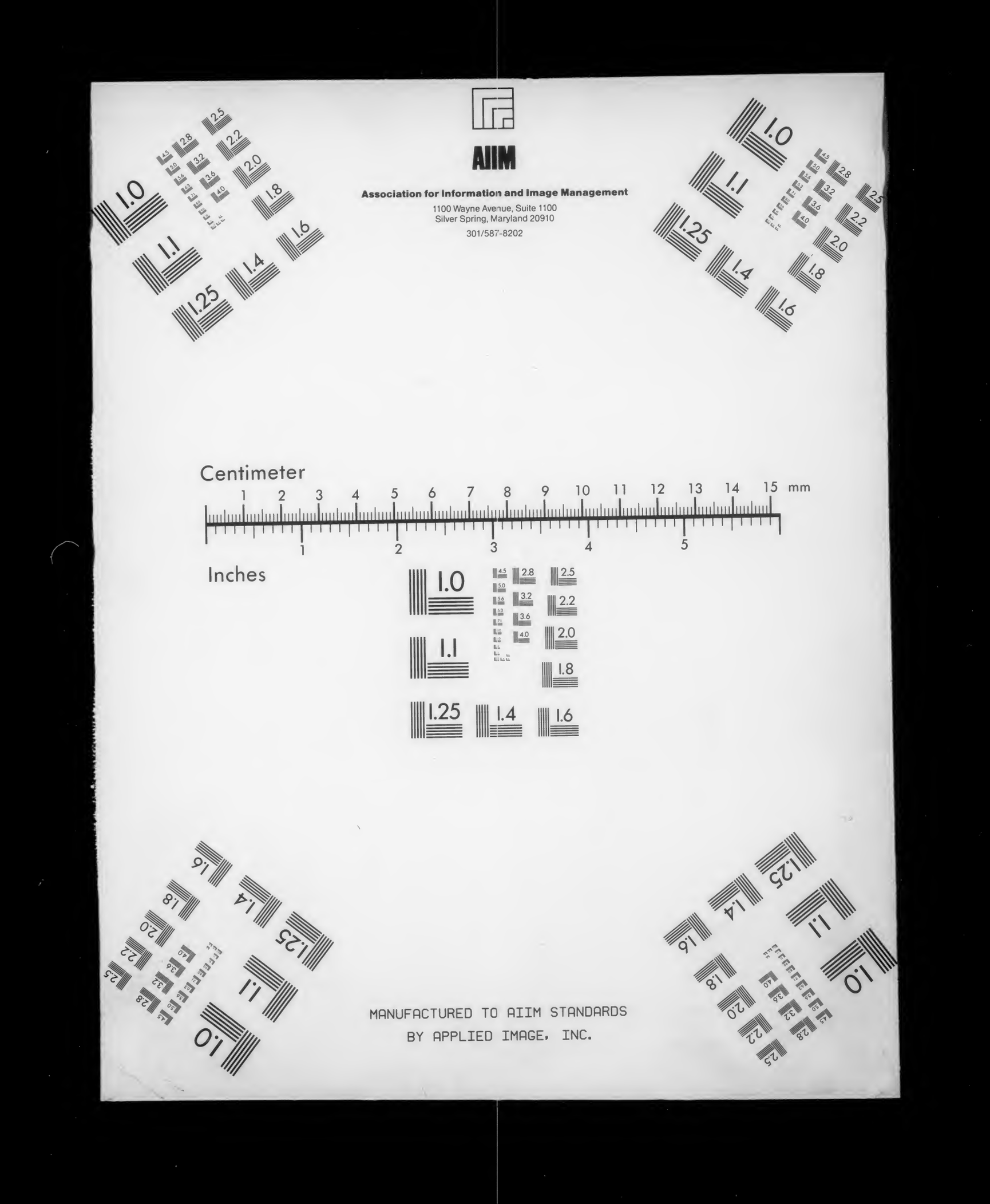
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VIVISECTION:

ITS FOLLIES AND CRUELTIES,

AND

THE WAY TO FIGHT IT.

AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BY

WALTER R. HADWEN, Esq.,

M.D., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., L.S.A., &c.,
OF GLOUCESTER,

At the Annual Meeting of the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection, held at Caxton Hall, Westminster, July 13th, 1905.

PRICE ONE PENNY EACH.

1905

PUBLISHED BY THE
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32, CHARING CROSS, LONDON, S.W.
Sec.: Miss B. E. KIDD, *to whom all orders may be sent.*

See Publications on last page.

Famous and noble old Dr. Johnson, of England characterized vivisectors as "a race of wretches. who. with knives, poisons, and many other devilish contrivances of torture, pretend to get knowledge, though at the expense of their own humanity."

"Kind hearts are more than coronets."

THE FOLLIES AND CRUELTIES OF VIVISECTION.

AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BY DR. HADWEN,

At the Caxton Hall, Westminster, July 13th, 1905.

RESOLUTION MOVED BY THE REV. F. B. MEYER, B.A.

That this meeting condemns the practice of vivisection, and calls for its prohibition by law on the following grounds: (1) That it is opposed to morality, being inseparable from cruelty; (2) that it is opposed to true science, being uncertain in its results; (3) that the dangerous growth of the revolting system of serumtherapy, the enormous yearly increase in the number of experiments, and the strong bias evinced by the Government inspectors, give evidence of the futility of restriction and the necessity for drastic measures in dealing with a growing evil.

Dr. HADWEN, in seconding the above resolution, said :—

Everyone will admit that the resolution before the meeting is a comprehensive one—in short, that vivisection as practised to-day is cruel, immoral, unscientific, and opposed to the best methods of research. It plainly indicates also the policy of this Society, which aims at nothing short of the total abolition of a cowardly and un-Christian practice. We believe in no half-and-half measures in dealing with it ; we believe vivisection to be a sin against the moral law, and we decline to play with it by proposing futile measures of restriction through which a coach and four could drive with the greatest ease. We are confident that it is far easier and more politic to fight with a total abolition Bill in our hands than with one of restriction, because in the former case we fight on the side of principle—that the thing in itself is wrong ;

What is time worth ?
Ask death-beds

whilst in prosecuting restriction we are sacrificing principle, robbing ourselves of our most powerful weapon of attack, and admitting, in effect, that there may be something in vivisection after all. We are true and genuine anti-vivisectionists in every sense of the word. (Applause.)

The Morality of the Question.

Now there are three great objects that sway mankind—three prime motives which impel men forward in the great struggle of existence.

1.—The attainment of wealth or honour.

2.—The attainment of health.

3.—The attainment of knowledge.

I believe I am correct in placing these several ambitions in this order. No one can deny that the question of the almighty dollar has more to do with every department of public and private life than any other matter. Health is sought by all classes. Knowledge claims, perhaps, a smaller number of votaries than those of the former classes, but where she sits as goddess her rule is imperious in the extreme.

To attain these objects various methods are pursued, which appeal to many subsidiary emotions, and the methods vary in accordance with the idiosyncracies, habits, or training, of the pursuer.

Now there is one path along which men travel towards the attainment of all these three objects at one and the same time—namely, that of vivisection. It is this fashionable and mysterious pursuit which yields honour, emoluments and professional status; it is urged to be the only scientific means of settling most problems of health, and it is credited with being the source of practically all medical knowledge. Vivisection, with its ramifications, has become one of the greatest commercial enterprises of the day.

Now, I should be the last to assert that men who labour in the pursuit of knowledge calculated to produce brilliant results in

The Angel of Mercy passeth by on the other side and hath no tears to shed when the cruel man dies.

No. 9 (OVER)

lessening the sum total of human disease should not be rewarded. Such men are deserving of all the praise, honour, and reward we can bestow upon them—always providing that the means by which the alleged benefits to health and knowledge are sought for are consistent with the demands of justice, rectitude, and manly conduct. (Hear, hear.)

If I am asked, Is the practice of vivisection consistent with these qualities? I answer emphatically *No*. (Cheers.)

I do not ask at this stage, Have brilliant discoveries in methods of treatment been obtained thereby? Are such brilliant discoveries, judging by past experience, possible? or Is vivisection consistent with the laws of science? To all such questions I should still reply No. But it would be a cold, unreasoning soul that would argue in favour of an object that was scientifically right, but admitted to be morally wrong. I feel that a morally wrong process can never be held to be justifiable, even though certain beneficial results might in all probability be attained thereby. (Applause.

It appears to me that extremely cruel and naturally unjustifiable actions perpetrated against innocent fellow-creatures incapable of resistance can never be held to be necessary in order to discover secrets for our own benefit. It is simply a repetition of the Spanish Inquisition applied to lower animals. To admit such a theory is to admit God as an ogre compared with whom the fetish of the African medicine man of long ages ago sinks into insignificance, and it puts an estimate upon human necessities which is far beyond their market value. (Hear, hear.)

The Plea of Restriction.

To say that you will render an act, which is immoral in itself, a justifiable act, by ensuring, as far as possible, that that act be painless, might have some claim upon the consideration of nervous and accommodating humanitarians, were the grounds upon which the specious plea is based absolutely reliable. Now, what is the

We can easily run from these few premises to the full realization that there is a passion of cruelty still sweeping along in our world and our country—a passion which should be met and be eliminated more perfectly from the human heart. It was the disgrace of the past; it is the DEEPER INFAMY of the present because the culture of the race has moved forward since the times of Nero and Catherine de Medici.

actual basis upon which such a result is proposed to be effected? It is this :—

That whenever a cutting or other severe operation is to be performed, a Government inspector shall be present in order to see that the animal operated upon is fully under the influence of an anæsthetic.

Now there are various fallacies associated with this suggestion : It has been stated by the recognised mouthpiece of the Vivisectors, Mr. Stephen Paget, that the injection of morphia beneath the skin of the animal is absolutely necessary to keep the animal at rest. If the administration of morphia be allowed, as it *must* be allowed under any circumstance, and, indeed, *is* allowed in the policy of the Restrictionists, no Government inspector, however desirous of carrying out his duties, could be absolutely certain that the subject was not under the influence of the narcotic rather than of an anæsthetic. And should he happen to be an inspector who holds the convenient theory that morphia itself is an anæsthetic, there would be very little hope for the creature whose interest he was supposed to safeguard.

Moreover, the absolute necessity, in consequence of an animal's physical conformation, that it should be firmly fixed to the operating table so that it would be powerless to move, places the kindest-hearted of Government inspectors at a great disadvantage in seeking to carry out his duties. The animal is partially narcotised by morphia and fright (or the morphia may be omitted) ; it is fixed firmly to a carefully-devised board, probably gagged, and its face covered by a mask ; the corneal reflexes under such conditions are untrustworthy. In what way, then, is he to judge if the animal is anæsthetised effectually or not? A mechanical anæsthetic spray may probably do its work, but ever and anon must come the warning not to push it too far or the animal will be lost.

The whole conditions are necessarily different from the anæsthetisation of the human subject. And if the inspector happen to be, as he most likely would be, a friend to the vivisector and to vivi-

The good and great Lord Shaftsbury of England, said about vivisection "the thought of this diabolical system haunts and disturbs me night and day.

section, his conscience would be even more easily satisfied, and the risk to the animal would be that much the greater.

Now I ask any one of my auditors to put himself in the position of a dog under these circumstances, helplessly strapped to a board, with a Government inspector specially appointed by the Home Office standing by, with the A.C.E. spray doing its beneficent work, with a hypodermic of morphia circulating through the blood stream ; in fact, every precaution known to science and to the State at your behest, and then tell me how you would like it? Could you say in encouraging a system of this sort that you are fulfilling the injunction, " Do unto others as you would that they should do unto you "? (Applause.)

And yet this system of inspectorship and anæsthetisation, which upon the face of it is more or less a farce, is dangled before us by certain misguided anti-vivisectionists as the magnificent system of compromise by which animals are to be saved under the specious cry of " half a loaf is better than none." My answer is, for God's sake let me starve rather than give me bread of this description—a diet that can only prolong my misery under the fallacious guise of protecting me from it. (Loud cheers.)

The Only Effective Policy.

The long and the short of the matter is that in practical politics you cannot separate painless from painful vivisection. The pursuit of "painless" vivisection under the hollow cry of restriction is the pursuit of a will-o'-the-wisp. The only method of dealing with a gigantic evil of this description is by its total abolition. We say, like the Japanese to the Russians, " You are wholly in the wrong : we have proved you to be in the wrong, we have exposed your tactics of oppression and aggression ; we have smashed your great fortress of excuses ; we have sunk your ironclads of misrepresentation, defeated your armies of plausibility, and captured or rendered useless your worn-out weapons of defence, and now we demand your surrender. It is not for *us* to approach *you* with offers of armistice or compromise, or to dilly-dally about quantities of chloroform or fraudulent inspectorships, or limited inoculations ;

we say, Clear out from the whole disputed territory, from the Korea and the Manchuria of laboratory devilries, from the Port Arthur of legalised wrong, and let us have liberty—absolute liberty for those we fight for, for the empire of helpless creaturehood for which we plead. (Cheers.)

But I turn from the cruelty and immorality of the practice to a consideration of its professed scientific exactitude, and will give just one instance of its unreliability and uselessness.

Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

During the past week the public Press has published lengthy reports of a meeting of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund held at Marlborough House under the presidency of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. The annual report, which was laid before the meeting by Sir William Church, was strange reading. Apparently the past year has been spent in the wholesale torture of mice. Now, I am not going to start a society for the protection of vermin from destruction, as I admit that there are conditions under which vermin must be got rid of, but I not only object to torturing rabbits in steel traps, but I also object to slowly dragging out the death agony of mice by developing growths of cancer in their sensitive frames. Those are not processes which are worthy of Englishmen, and certainly not of men of science, and I can only regret that this latter practice should have been unwittingly countenanced by the heir to the British throne. (Hear, hear.)

Now I will quote a sample of the so-called scientific story which was narrated at Marlborough House by Sir William Church. He said : " Professor von Leyden, of Berlin, was kind enough to send us a live mouse which had a tumour which had been transplanted through three generations in Berlin wild mice, together with twenty Berlin wild mice. 47·3 per cent. of the transplantations made into the twenty Berlin wild mice were successful, whilst the transplantations into London wild mice gave only 1·4 per cent. of success, and in London tame mice the proportion was even less." So it is quite clear that both the wild and tame mice of London are dead against the dumping of German manufactures upon English soil. (Laughter.) These scientists, knowing what was coming

off, ought to have had Mr. Joseph Chamberlain in the chair. (Renewed laughter.) At all events, the late Colonial Secretary will now be able to say that the very humblest citizens of the greatest capital of the mightiest Empire in the world are at least opposed to free trade in disease, and would support—to a mouse, any protection Bill he chose to introduce. This interesting refusal of English mice to take on German cancer only shows that

> The best-laid schemes o' men on mice
> Aft gang agley.

(Loud laughter and cheers.)

But the scientific free-traders were determined to overcome what they call these " initial difficulties." They worked at the English mice until they had forced them to take on German cancer, just as King Charles forced the ship-tax on the people of England. King Charles lost his head and crown. English scientists win Royal smiles and honour and emoluments. But in the one case it was men who suffered ; in the other it was only mice. (Hear, hear.)

And now for the discoveries. First : These eminent scientists found out that, just as in human beings, cancer occurs spontaneously more among aged mice than it does in young ones. That is interesting, but I don't know that the knowledge is of any particular value. Secondly : They found that when they pumped cancer into the bodies of mice the young ones took it on rather better than their older friends. What the value of that information is I cannot say ; it takes an expert to find that out. Thirdly : " The power of continuous cell multiplication was demonstrated by the fact that a single mouse tumour produced an amount of tissue equal to more than a thousand mice," but as they admit this fact of cell multiplication had been recognised long, long ago, I do not know why on earth they wanted to torture mice to discover it over again. Fourthly : They put sound mice with diseased mice and they found the sound ones did not take cancer ; therefore, cancer was not infectious. This was considered so important that H.R.H. repeated the fact in his speech. I thought we had had thousands of human beings living with cancer patients, for ages past, and accordingly knew all about this ; but they don't say whether they were German

mice or English mice, because, as already seen, the English mice might refuse to be exploited on behalf of Germans. Fifthly : There came the serum business. They put cancer cells into normal sera, and into immunised sera, and they couldn't come to any conclusion about it.

And yet with all this persiflage recorded in the most unsatisfactory report that I ever had the misfortune to read, Sir William Church has the temerity to talk about " real progress." I want to know where the progress is. I have searched carefully, but I have failed to find it, in spite of all the torture perpetrated upon these poor little victims, and in spite of four years of cruel vivisection experiments, and the expenditure of thousands of pounds. Not one single solid fact has been added to scientific knowledge which can aid toward the alleviation or cure of the disease, and the Prince of Wales closed his speech by admitting that cancer " still remains one of the greatest problems of human life." At all events this knocks on the head the loudly-advertised cancer serum of M. Doyen, another vivisectionist, who informed the world with all the confidence bred of ignorance, that he had discovered a " perfect cure." Is it not time some other method of research was adopted? (Prolonged applause.)

Suggested Method of Cancer Research.

The scientists at Marlborough House declared their opinion that cancer is not associated with diet, climate, or mode of life. In answer to this reckless statement from the bacteriological armchair one may quote the classical work of Mr. Alfred Haviland, M.R.C.S., who has proved in his " Geographical Distribution of Disease in Great Britain," by means of the statistics of the Registrar-General, that cancer flourishes in low-lying and water-logged districts, and that it can hardly gain a footing in land at high levels, on dry and gravelly, well-drained soils, where God's pure air reigns supreme. A hard concrete fact of this description is better than all the theoretical verbiage associated with the cruelties of poisoned mice. Among savage races farthest removed from civilisation, cancer is practically unknown, whereas in China and some of the thickly-populated parts of the United States of America it is of frequent occurrence. And in answer to Sir Wm. Church

and his Imperial Cancer Research Fund, I can only say, as one who has largely studied the question of cancer for some years from the common-sense standpoint of human observation, that the denser the population, the more low-lying the district, the more artificial the environment, and the weaker the vital resisting powers of the individual constitution, the more cancer appears to flourish ; and I believe that by means of right living, healthy conditions, proper drainage, purer air, and suppression of over-crowding —in fact, every means whereby the vital resisting powers of the system can be increased—lies the germ for future researches in the prevention, and perhaps cure, of this terrible disease. (Cheers.)

I feel that we thorough-going Anti-Vivisectionists, who decline to be parties to an absurd Parliamentary Bill (which offers to grant six inoculations to each licensee with the puerile proviso that if the speechless animal begins to suffer it is to be destroyed), are doing a great work far beyond that of merely opposing vivisection, for we are setting our faces against a wholly wrong system of medical treatment and are pointing to sounder, safer, and more scientific methods of research. A success in the laboratory is repeatedly a failure in practical life.

The System of Bacteriology.

We are being frightened to death by microbes. It is germs, germs, germs everywhere. I see one doctor lately says we must give up shaking hands because there are 80,000 germs in every palm. (Laughter.) Kissing has been tabooed long ago on similar grounds, although I have not heard this pleasant osculatory practice has in any way diminished. (Continued laughter.) There are germs above us, around us, within us, in everything we eat and almost everything we drink. It is a wonder that any of us are alive at all. One scientist has lately warned us most solemnly that fleas are very dangerous because they might give us the plague. Well, I always did try to avoid fleas, and I suppose I ought to be very thankful that I have ever tried to keep them at a respectful distance. (Loud laughter.)

Every question to-day is to be settled by a microbe.

Now I do not say one word against the science of bacteriology. It has its place, and that place is a valuable one, though I am

bound to confess its value has been sadly overrated ; but when it makes claims it cannot prove, and vaunts promises and prophecies it never fulfils, I begin to lose faith in it as a medical guide. Scientists lay down as an axiom of which they challenge contradiction, that practically all the acute specific diseases owe their origin to a specific microbe, and yet an undoubted specific microbe has never yet been discovered as the unerring cause of a single one of them. The whole of the system of serum-therapy and anti-toxin, with its cruelty to animals practised for the production of these filthy preparations, is based upon a theory which has never been proved, either by statistics or demonstration. (Cheers.)

Now I am not going to give you statistics to-day, for I quite agree there is nothing so fallacious as statistics except it be facts, but I want to get behind this bacteriological craze and by one solid argument to measure its value for the whole host of diseases it presumes to cater for. I will take the bacteriologist on his own ground and use his own argument. We will suppose for argument's sake that the various diseases owe their origin to a specific germ. Now, every bacteriologist asserts that healthy blood is the most powerful germicide we possess. No germ can live in healthy blood. Inside or outside the body healthy blood is equally fatal to the germs. Then, I say, by all means let us do everything we can to get healthy blood. When a child's blood is already inflamed by the absorption of the morbid products of diphtheria, are you going to improve its vital resisting powers by polluting the life-stream still further with the poisoned blood serum of a horse? A mother points with pride to a child who got well from diphtheria after an injection of anti-toxin ; just as the savage praises his wooden fetish when his tribe wins in the battle. If the baby die or the battle is lost, the anti-toxin in the one case and the fetish in the other was not resorted to soon enough—so says the medicine man. And between the cure and the failure there are many degrees of possible excuses, but whatever the degree, "quackery," as Cobbett says, "has always one shuffle left." (Applause.)

They tell us plague is caused by rats, and when rats have disappeared the plague has disappeared too. That was no doubt the case when the conditions under which rats usually exist were no longer present. Dr. Creighton, in his recent investigations into the plague in India, has shown that the insanitary conditions

which breed the rats are the conditions which breed the plague, and yet an army of so-called scientists are still poisoning the people with a filthy decoction of plague instead of spending their time and brains and money in sweeping away the foul conditions which exist throughout the plague area. (Hear, hear.)

What did Koch himself say before the British Congress on Tuberculosis : "It is the overcrowded dwellings of the poor that we have to regard as the real breeding-places of tuberculosis ; it is out of them that the disease always crops up anew, and it is to the abolition of these conditions that we must *first* and *foremost* direct our attention if we wish to attack the evil at its root, and to wage war against it with effective weapons." (Cheers.)

I might deal with typhoid fever, typhus, cholera, malaria, and many other diseases, all of which I should argue about from the same standpoint did time permit, but I cannot close this part of my subject without quoting a pregnant sentence from a leading article in the *Times*, when Sir Ernest Cassel gave his splendid gift for a sanatorium to the King. The *Times* said : "When medical science has said its last word, the best hope for the cure of disease lies simply in the strengthening by rational modes of living the resisting power of the human organism." Those are words I would have written in letters of gold. (Loud applause.)

Serum-Therapy Run Mad.

What a contrast to such sound, philosophic and truly scientific reasoning are the awful vagaries of Professor Metchnikoff, who has had the audacity to put a syphilitic serum upon the market obtained by artificially diseasing monkeys, and proposes to inoculate all the soldiers and sailors and fallen women in France with it, and to poison the blood of all lads when they commence school life. His serum to arrest the advance of old age is a contrast in comicality about which he appears to be really serious. But, perhaps, the strangest attempt to advertise this mad serum-therapy craze consists in the manufacture of a serum to cure fatigue. It is obtained by fatiguing a poor dog on a sort of treadmill until it drops down wearied and nearly dead, and then expressing juice from its muscles, which is forthwith injected into the veins of a horse, whose blood is finally drawn off to be afterwards pumped into

human beings under the name of anti-toxin, so as to invigorate them when they are tired out! Sancho Panza, when he threw himself wearied upon the ground, cried, "God bless the man who first invented sleep," and I wonder which remedy appeals the more to common sense, that of simple-minded Sancho Panza or the cruel, absurd, filthy, and complicated process of the modern bacteriologist. (Laughter and cheers.)

But I will take up your time no longer. I have sought to expose a great fallacy and to point to a high ideal. I know the battle we have to fight is a hard one, with prestige, tradition, emolument, and Royal favour all against us, but the cause is sacred. If results are sometimes disappointing, and our hearts grow sad at the delay, it must be ours to remember that all reformers have passed through similar experiences, but victory has crowned their efforts at the last. As Whittier says :—

With something of the seer
Must the moral pioneer
From the future borrow,
Fill his fields with sheaves of grain,
And on midnight's sky of rain
Paint the golden morrow.

We ask you to help us. We ask you to join our whole-hearted Society, founded by our revered Miss Frances Power Cobbe in her declining years, when another Society she had founded twenty years before had departed from the policy she had fought for in the strenuous days of the past. It is her motto which should actuate us all, namely, that she had formed a determination long years before that she would never lay her head upon her pillow at night without having done something, however small, toward the emancipation of those helpless creatures which lay so near her own heart. It is her voice which speaks to us still, and it is her great example which speeds us on. We shall not win at once, but we *shall* win. Of that I am confident, for the God of Victory is ours. And though the way be long and the battle severe, we must ever remember :—

Slowly moves the rock of ages,
Slowly grows the forest king,
Slowly to perfection cometh
Every great and glorious thing.

(Loud and prolonged applause.)

A Problem

Impromptu lines upon a remark with refer-
e to vivisection, "but they have no souls,"

me Carlo, dear four-footed friend,
nd look at me that I may trace
ce more that glance of loving light,
Which lends such beauty to thy face.
t whence it comes and what it means,
an take small place in Nature's roll;
y gaze is but atonic play,
or Carlo, dear, thou hast no soul(?)

e me thy paw; *'tis trustier far*
Than many a hand of human mould;
d greet me with thy honest tongue
Which never a *human* lie has told.
l yet thy steadfastness and truth
Twere idle folly to extol;
ey're only matter's fleeting form
or Carlo, dear, thou hast no soul(?)

ere let my vivisecting knife
low make thee, dumb, and maimed, and blind;
y torture weighs not in the scale,
Matter must be the store of mind.
! God, that look; that piteous cry,
What is this thought beyond control?
n science be a cruel lie,
nd faithful Carlo *have a soul?*

(*L. H. E. in London Zoophilist*)

Cruelty to dumb animals is one of the most
tinguishing vices of the lowest and basest of
people. Whenever it is found, it is a cer-
n mark of ignorance and meanness—an
rinsic mark which all the external advantages
wealth, splendor and nobility cannot obliterate
will consist neither with true learning nor
civility, and religion disclaims and detests
s an insult upon the majesty and goodness
God, who, having made the instincts of
te beasts minister to the improvement of
mind, as well as to the convenience of the
y, hath furnished us with a motive to mercy
l compassion toward them very strong and
werful, but too refined to have any influence
the illiterate or irreligious.

(*By the Saintly Divine, "Jones of Nayland"*)

**"The great duty of life is not to give
n."**

"As nothing is too cruel, so nothing is too loathsome for the vivisectors. W. Gaucher revels in a new way of giving animals Bright's Disease. It consists in injecting into guinea-pigs certain products of animal organs, so that the poor creatures die of diseased kidneys. Dr. Klein, Mr. Lingard and others are amusing themselves by feeding fowls upon the putrid lungs of men and animals to induce tuberculosis and inoculating guinea-pigs, which persist in disapointing these fragrant persons by premature death from blood poisoning. And the result of all the diabolical cruelties practised is the power of PRODUCING diseases but not a step towards their CURE. The effect of their gruesome processes are found to be quite different on different animals, and are, therefore, scarcely ever a guide to their effects on human beings. Let no one, however, be discouraged; they will presently want human beings to practice on."

(*Halifax "Critic"*)

The Crime of the World, Vivisection

* * * * * * * * *

And beyond all this, in abyssmal deeps
The Spirit of Cruelty sows and reaps,
In the chambers of Torture that wear to day
The glow of the cruel inquisitor's sway;
'Tis impious zeal that in Murder deals,
Not Humanity's heart-throb that grandly feels.
O, shrink from the terrible hand, blood-dyed,
That all claim of the merciful soul denied;
The foulest and blackest, most fearful crime,
Injustice the rankest! most barbarous sight!
Pretense of Knowledge assailing the Right!
Vivisection, the depths of all cruelty thine,
Thy crimes are the false lights that luridly shine.

"Now that Jews, Heretics and Witches can no longer be tormented, punched with red-hot irons and burnt, the human race satisfies its thirst for cruelty on faithful, sensitive animals. So long as there is something to be burnt, flogged, cut in pieces, it little matters what.

(*Thier und Menschen Freund, Germany*)

"The grand name of Science is now prostituted to the uses of those hellish crimes and vile monstrous cruelties, too loathsome oftentimes to be even written about by the fiendish tormentors themselves."

(*London Paper*)

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